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Dated: August 30, 2010
Electronic Signature for Dennis M. Smid, Esq.: /Dennis M. Smid, Esq./

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Group Art Unit: 2617

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-1048

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:	:
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Shigeru Sugaya	:
	:
Application No.: 10/506,461	: Group Art Unit: 2617
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	:
Filed: July 11, 2005	: Examiner: F. A. Casca
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	:
For: WIRELESS COMMUNICATION	:
APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND DEVICE	:
COMMUNICATING WITH ANOTHER	:
WIRELESS COMMUNICATION	:
APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND DEVICE IN	:
AN AUTONOMOUS DISTRIBUTED	:
NETWORK WITHOUT A DESIGNATED	:
CONTROL STATION AND METHOD	:
THEREOF	:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 21, 2010, finally rejecting claims 1-13 and 15-25, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A wireless communication apparatus for communicating with another wireless communication apparatus in an autonomous distributed network without a designated control station apparatus,

said wireless communication apparatus comprising:

frame period setting means for setting a predetermined frame period for the wireless communication apparatus;

data slot setting means for setting slots serving as data transmission units;

scan period setting means for setting a scan period, the scan period being longer than said predetermined frame period;

scan operation period setting means for setting a scan operation period to receive a beacon signal over a time of the predetermined frame period other than a time set for transmission of a beacon signal by the wireless communication apparatus; and

~~a~~reception slot setting means for setting at least one reception slot for receiving a signal in said predetermined frame period which avoids a reception slot or slots of the other wireless communication apparatus.

2. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a beacon signal to another wireless communication apparatus at a predetermined timing of said predetermined frame period, wherein the beacon signal has information about a timing of the reception slot set by said reception slot setting means; and

receiving means for receiving a signal transmitted by said another wireless communication apparatus.

3. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said receiving means receives the signal at a timing of the reception slot set by said reception slot setting means.

4. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising beacon transmitting means for transmitting a beacon signal at a timing of a head of the predetermined frame period.

5. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

data transmitting means for transmitting data to another wireless communication apparatus,

storage means for storing timings of reception slots of other wireless communication apparatuses, and

control means for making said data transmitting means transmit data at a timing of a reception slot of said another wireless communication apparatus when there is transmission data to be sent to the other wireless communication apparatus.

6. (currently amended) A wireless communication apparatus for communicating with another wireless communication apparatus in an autonomous distributed network without a designated control station apparatus,

said wireless communication apparatus comprising:

frame period setting means for setting a predetermined frame period for the wireless communication apparatus;

data slot setting means for setting slots serving as data transmission units;

scan period setting means for setting a scan period longer than said predetermined frame period; and

scanning means for receiving a beacon signal transmitted from another wireless communication apparatus in a scan operation period set over a time of said predetermined frame period other than a time set for transmission of a beacon signal by the wireless communication apparatus; and

reception slot setting means for setting at least one reception slot for receiving a signal in said predetermined frame period which avoids a reception slot or slots of the other wireless communication apparatus.

7. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus as set forth claim 6, further comprising:

managing means for converting a timing of said received beacon signal and a timing of the reception slot into its own slot positions and managing same; and

transmitting means for transmitting a signal at the timing of the reception slot of the corresponding wireless communication apparatus when there is data directed to another wireless communication apparatus.

8. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus as set forth in claim 7, further comprising control means for making said transmitting means transmit a signal at the timing of the reception slot of the corresponding wireless communication apparatus when there is data directed to the other wireless communication apparatus,

the scanning means obtaining the timing of the beacon signal and the timing of the reception slot from said other wireless communication apparatus.

9. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus as set forth in claim 6, further comprising beacon transmitting timing control means for controlling a timing of

transmission of its own beacon so as not to collide with the beacon of the other wireless communication apparatus, wherein

the scanning means receives a beacon from the another wireless communication apparatus.

10. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus as set forth in claim 6, further comprising transmitting means for transmitting a beacon signal at a predetermined timing of the frame period, wherein the beacon signal has information relating to a beacon transmitting slot transmitted from another wireless communication apparatus obtained by said scanning means.

11. (currently amended) A wireless communication system for communication among a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses in an autonomous distributed network without a designated control station apparatus, wherein

each of the wireless communication apparatus configuring the network comprises:

frame period setting means for setting a predetermined frame period for the wireless communication apparatus;

data slot setting means for setting slots serving as data transmission units;

beacon slot setting means for setting beacon slots for transmitting beacon signals at a predetermined timing of said predetermined frame period;

reception slot setting means for setting at least one reception slot for receiving a signal in the receiving operation in said predetermined frame period which avoids a reception slot or slots of other wireless communication apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting a beacon signal that has information about a timing of a reception slot set by said

reception slot setting means and informing its presence to another wireless communication apparatus in the neighborhood;

scan period setting means for setting a scan period longer than said predetermined frame period;

managing means for managing a timing of receiving a beacon signal of another wireless communication apparatus in the neighborhood and timing of the reception slot, and for performing continuous reception over a time of said predetermined frame period and receiving a beacon signal of another wireless communication apparatus in the neighborhood in a scan operation period set over a time of said predetermined frame period other than a time set for transmission of a beacon signal by the transmitting means.

12. (previously presented) The wireless communication system as set forth in claim 11, wherein the system transmits the beacon signals at a timing of a head of said predetermined frame period.

13. (previously presented) The wireless communication system as set forth in claim 12, wherein timings by which wireless communication apparatuses transmit beacon signals are arranged so as not to overlap each other.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A wireless communication method for communication among a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses in an autonomous distributed network without a designated control station apparatus, wherein each wireless communication apparatus being operable for:

~~sets~~ setting a predetermined frame period and slots serving as data transmission units for the wireless communication apparatus;

~~sets~~ setting at least one beacon slot for transmitting a beacon signal at a predetermined timing of said predetermined frame period and sets reception slot for receiving a signal in a receiving operation in said predetermined frame period which avoids a reception slot or slots of other wireless communication apparatus;

~~sets~~ setting a scan period longer than said predetermined frame period; and

~~sets~~ setting a scan operation period to receive a beacon signal over a time of the predetermined frame period other than the predetermined timing of said predetermined frame period of the at least one beacon slot.

16. (previously presented) The wireless communication method as set forth in claim 15, further comprising transmitting a beacon signal that has information about timing of the set reception slot and informing its presence to another wireless communication apparatus located in the neighborhood.

17. (previously presented) The wireless communication method as set forth in claim 15, further comprising having a wireless communication apparatus that engages in reception processing at a timing of said set reception slot and receives data transmitted from another wireless communication apparatus.

18. (previously presented) The wireless communication method as set forth in claim 15, wherein the system transmits a beacon signal at a timing of a head of said predetermined frame period.

19. (currently amended) A wireless communication method for communication among a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses in an autonomous distributed network without a designated control station apparatus, wherein each wireless communication apparatus being operable for:

~~sets~~ setting a predetermined frame period and slots serving as data transmission units for the wireless communication apparatus,

~~provides~~ providing any scan period longer than said frame period, ~~performs~~ and performing scan processing for continuous reception over a time of said predetermined frame period other than when a beacon signal is transmitted therefrom, ~~and~~

~~receives~~ receiving a beacon signal transmitted from another wireless communication apparatus located in the neighborhood in a scan operation period set over a time of said predetermined frame period other than a time set for transmission of the beacon signal therefrom, and

setting at least one reception slot for receiving a signal in said predetermined frame period which avoids a reception slot or slots of other wireless communication apparatus.

20. (previously presented) The wireless communication method as set forth claim 19, further comprising a step of managing a timing of the reception of the beacon signal transmitted from said other wireless communication apparatus and a timing of the reception slot.

21. (previously presented) The wireless communication method as set forth in claim 19, comprising steps of:

storing a timing of a beacon signal from another wireless communication apparatus located in the neighborhood and a timing of the reception slot and

engaging in a transmitting operation at a timing of the reception slot of the another communication apparatus when there is data destined for the another wireless communication apparatus.

22. (currently amended) A wireless communication method for communication among a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses an autonomous distributed network without a designated control station apparatus, comprising, at each wireless communication apparatus, the steps of:

setting a predetermined frame period and slots serving as data transmission units for the wireless communication apparatus,

setting at least one beacon slot for transmitting a beacon signal at a timing of head of said predetermined frame period and a reception slot for receiving a signal in a receiving operation in said predetermined frame period which avoids a reception slot or slots of other wireless communication apparatus,

transmitting a beacon signal that has information about a timing of the set reception slot and notifying its existence to another wireless communication apparatus located in the neighborhood,

setting a scan period longer than said predetermined frame period and performing scan processing for continuous reception over the time of said predetermined frame period, and

receiving a beacon signal from another wireless communication apparatus located in the neighborhood in a scan operation period set over a time of said predetermined frame period other than a time set for transmission of a beacon signal therefrom.

23. (previously presented) The wireless communication method as set forth in claim 22, further comprising steps of:

managing a timing of the reception of said beacon signal of the another wireless communication apparatus located in the neighborhood and a timing of the reception slot, and

transmitting a signal at the timing of the reception slot of the corresponding wireless communication apparatus when communicating directed to the another wireless communication apparatus.

24. (previously presented) The wireless communication method as set forth claim 22, further comprising the step of receiving a beacon from another wireless communication apparatus by said scanning processing and controlling a timing of transmission of its own beacon so as not to collide with the beacon of the another wireless communication apparatus.

25. (previously presented) The wireless communication method as set forth in claim 22, further comprising the step of transmitting a beacon signal at a predetermined timing of the predetermined frame period, wherein the beacon signal has information relating to a beacon transmitting slot transmitted from another wireless communication apparatus obtained by said scanning processing.

REMARKS

Claims 14 has been canceled. Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-13, 16-18, 20-21, and 23-25, and amended claims 1, 6, 11, 15, 19, and 22 are in this application.

Claims 1-6, 9-13 and 15-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0159544 A1 (Karaoguz) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2006/0044436 A1 (Watanabe) and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0114204 A1 (Allen et al.).

Each of independent claims 1, 6, 11, 15, 19, and 22 has been amended herein. As a result and as an example, amended independent claim 1 now recites in part the following:

"reception slot setting means for setting at least one reception slot for receiving a signal in said predetermined frame period which avoids a reception slot or slots of the other wireless communication apparatus." (Emphasis added.)

It is submitted that the present application provides support for the features herein added to claim 1 (and to claims 6, 11, 15, 19, and 22). With regard thereto and as an example, reference is made to lines 7-11 of page 17 and lines 9-12 of page 28 of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Karaoguz, Watanabe and Allen applied by the Examiner does not appear to disclose the above-identified feature as now specifically recited in claim 1. That is, in explaining the above 103 rejection with regard to claim 1, the Examiner appears to assert that paragraph 0063 of Karaoguz discloses the reception slot setting means of claim 1. In response, it is submitted that although such portion of Karaoguz appears to

mention a guaranteed time slot (GTS) period in which communicating devices may transmit data frames, such portion of Karaoguz does not appear to disclose the reception slot setting means as now recited in claim 1. That is, such portion of Karaoguz does not appear to disclose "setting at least one reception slot for receiving a signal in said predetermined frame period which avoids a reception slot or slots of the other wireless communication apparatus."

More specifically, the portion of Karaoguz relied on by the Examiner appears to pertain to slots used for transmitting data and not for receiving data. In section 3 on page 2 of the present Office Action the Examiner appears to acknowledge this difference; however, the Examiner appears to assert that such section of Karaoguz "implies" setting slots for receiving. In response, it is submitted that setting slots for transmitting data is not the same as setting a slot or slots for receiving data. Additionally, it is also submitted that setting slots for transmitting data is not the same as setting receiving slots (for receiving a signal or data) which avoids a reception slot or slots of the other wireless communication apparatus, as now recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is distinguishable from the combination of Karaoguz, Watanabe and Allen applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons described above.

For reasons similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 6, 11, 15, 19, and 22 are also distinguishable from the applied combination of Karaoguz, Watanabe and Allen.

Claims 2-5, 9-10, 12-13 and 16-18, 20-21, and 23-25 are dependent from one of the amended independent claims.

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Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-5, 9-10, 12-13 and 16-18, 20-21, and 23-25 are distinguishable from the applied combination of Karaoguz, Watanabe and Allen for at least the reasons previously described.

Claims 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karaoguz in view of Watanabe further in view of Allen et al., and further in view of well known prior art (MPEP 2144.03).

Claims 7-8 are dependent from amended independent claim 6. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 7-8 are distinguishable from the applied combination of Karaoguz, Watanabe and Allen for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to rely on "well know prior art" to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Karaoguz. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 7-8 are distinguishable from the applied combination of Karaoguz, Watanabe, Allen and "well know prior art".

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

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If there are any charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: August 30, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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